



Bureau of Land Management - Colorado

Partnerships

A

Alpine Triangle Recreation Management Area. A collaborative partnership comprised of local governments and citizens from three gateway communities - Lake City, Silverton and Ouray - along with the BLM, Forest Service, the Colorado Department of Transportation (operating through the Governor's Scenic and Historic Byways Commission), and tourism organizations and private sector service providers. The partners work together within the framework of a MOU to manage recreation and tourism uses along the Alpine Loop Back Country Byway and on adjoining public lands.

American Red Cross and FIREWISE. American Red Cross volunteers are working with the Colorado State Forest Service in western Colorado to promote community wildfire preparedness. BLM and the Forest Service provide funds, training, and other assistance. Trained volunteers help landowners prepare their families, homes, and landscapes to survive wildfires. They organize community education meetings where agency specialists teach fire behavior, fire ecology, and advise on hazard mitigation.

Anasazi Historical Society. The Anasazi Historical Society (AHS) supports the Anasazi Heritage Center collections and exhibits program, primarily sponsoring internships and temporary exhibits related to the Chappell Collection. The Chappell Collection is owned by the AHS and is stored at the Heritage Center through a 50-year loan agreement. The AHS enabled the Heritage Center to meet its obligation for a 50 percent match to the Save America's Treasures Project by applying for, receiving and administering a grant from the Colorado State Historical Fund. The AHS also is assisting in administering contracts funded by the Save America's Treasures Project.

Animas River Stakeholder Group. This partnership has the goal of improving the water quality of the Animas River, which is impacted by polluted discharge from abandoned mines. The group includes local citizens, various interest groups, the mining industry, and state and federal agencies. The Colorado State Office of the BLM is a proactive participant in the group.

Archaeological Field School. A partnership with BLM, Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC), Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC), and the Archaeological Research Institute (ARI) to provide an archaeological field school to students from affiliated colleges in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. Field schools are directed by professional staff from BLM's White River Field Office, WWCC, CNCC and ARI. This program has been successfully in operation since 1990 and has provided a quality field educational experience for hundreds of undergraduate archaeology students.

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area. Partnership between BLM and the Colorado Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation to manage recreational activities along the Arkansas River operating through a Cooperative Management Agreement. Efforts are coordinated with the communities along the river as well as the Forest Service and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. A seven member citizen task force provides a forum for public input on recreation management and problem resolution.

B

Bats and Inactive Mines. Under a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Colorado Division of Wildlife evaluates inactive and abandoned mines for bat habitat for the BLM. Abandoned mines with bat habitat are closed with special grates to allow bat access rather than being sealed.

The Department of Energy (DOE) and BLM partner in the closure and reclamation of abandoned uranium mines on public lands and public lands withdrawn to DOE for management. The two agencies pool expertise and funding for efficient remediation of the mines. Where these mines have significant bat habitat, mine openings are closed with special bat grates that allow passage of bats and at the same time prevent entry by the public.

Blanca Wildlife Habitat Area (BWHA). The Blanca Wildlife Habitat Area (BWHA) is a wetland complex located in the San Luis Valley managed by BLM. Partners contribute to the operation, maintenance, and construction of the area by offering their time, money, land and water. Partners include: Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado Division of Wildlife, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Duck's Unlimited (MARSH), Colorado Wetlands Initiative, North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), Great Outdoors Colorado Trust, volunteer birders, and the USGS. The annual contribution by partners varies between \$200,000 to \$500,000, which allows BWHA to be one of the most productive wetlands for shorebirds, amphibians and waterfowl in the nation.

C

C.A.S.T. (Catch A Special Thrill) Fishing Program. Physically challenged and disadvantaged children learn the joy of fishing with sponsors and community volunteers at this yearly event. National, regional, and local sponsors donate, equipment, tackle, and supplies. Partners include: C.A.S.T. Foundation; B.A.S.S. Foundation; the Bureau of Reclamation; BLM; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Park Service; Job Corp Centers; Colorado Division of Wildlife; volunteer anglers; and product sponsors.

Closure of Abandoned Mines. The Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology and the BLM in Colorado cooperate in the closure of hazardous mine openings and in the cleanup of environmental damage from abandoned mines. This work is accomplished through an interagency agreement.

Colorado Celebrating Wildflowers. A five-year partnership to promote the appreciation of native Colorado flora on public lands. During National Wildflower Week, coloring books, posters, and brochures are distributed to educate the public about native and nonnative invasive plants in Colorado. Field tours are also conducted on public lands to assist the public in plant identification. Partners include: BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and the Denver Botanic Gardens.

Colorado Historical Society-State Historical Fund. The Anasazi Heritage Center and its partners regularly apply for and receive funding for projects through the Historical Fund grants program. Projects include the *People in the Past* interactive computer program and teacher activity guide; Escalante Trail interpretive signs, *Great Sage Plain* video, *Escalante Pueblo Curriculum*, Dolores Data Access Project, Southwest Colorado Collections Project (2 grants to match Save America's Treasures grant), and annual Archaeology Week events.

Colorado Interagency Archaeological Task Force. Partnership established in 1994 to promote public education, outreach and crime prevention projects. The partners include the Colorado Archaeological Society, Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, Colorado Historical Society, Colorado Department of Transportation, Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service, National Park Service, and BLM. The task force sponsors Colorado Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month, teacher workshops, archaeological law enforcement training, public education programs and initiatives for the long-term care of archaeological collections and records.

Colorado Natural Resources Group (CNRG). The CNRG is an organization of the mid-level land and natural resources managers throughout Colorado. The group focuses on broad issues facing all resource management agencies in Colorado. While much of CNRGs effort is in the sharing of information, the group also forms subgroups of agency staff and/or promotes collaborative approaches to defining and resolving perceived issues. Members of CNRG include USFS Forest Supervisors and the Colorado Capital City liaison officer, Colorado Division of Wildlife Regional Supervisors, Colorado State Parks Regional Supervisors and Assistant Directors, BLM Center Managers, National Park Service Superintendent, and a Colorado State Forest Service Assistant State Forester.

Colorado Noxious Weed Management Team. This group was formed as a follow-up action to the Department of the Interior Weeds meeting held in Denver in September 1995. A MOU between State of Colorado agencies and the Federal Departments of Agriculture and Interior was signed in March 1996. The group initially helped the State Department of Agriculture create the State Weed Coordinator position, and designated six state-sponsored weed management project areas, as well as initiating Colorado's first weed awareness week.

Colorado Outdoor Recreation Resources Project (CORRP). Partnership, based on a charter, which provides a communications forum for key natural resource recreation and tourism providers. CORRP is a round-table steering committee which meets on a monthly basis to discuss a wide variety of recreation and tourism issues. Includes the directors of the federal and

state land and recreation management agencies: BLM, Forest Service, NPS, Fish & Wildlife Service, Colorado Parks & Outdoor Recreation, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Colorado Division of Forestry.

Colorado Plateau Data Coordinating Group. The Colorado Plateau Data Coordination Group represents a wide variety of interests and view points with a common interest in geographic data. Credible, impartial, compatible, and widely shared geographic data provides common ground for discussion and a basis for sound decisionmaking. The development of a consistent, policy neutral, and widely available data sharing mechanism is critical to meeting the needs of the people on the Colorado Plateau. This effort focuses on collaboration of people and the sharing and coordination of data resources.

Colorado Plateau Managers Group. BLM field managers responsible for managing public lands situated on the Colorado Plateau work together to more efficiently manage public lands by recognizing regional issues and opportunities. The Managers Group, through their Science Committee, actively promotes the use of best available science and information in managing public lands and has taken the lead in coordinating the procurement of new research and data and the compilation of valuable existing information. The Colorado Plateau Managers Group serves as a key contact point for numerous state and federal agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, and colleges and universities working on the Colorado Plateau.

Colorado Riparian Association. The Colorado Riparian Association (CRA) is a group of landowners, resource managers, organizations, and interested people promoting awareness of the values and long-term benefits of proper management of Colorado's riparian areas. Among other activities, CRA produces occasional publications -- including *A Driving Guide to Riparian and Wetland Restoration in Colorado*, *Colorado Stream Corridor Management Guide*, and *Annual Conference Proceedings* -- sponsors annual conferences and field tours, highlights exemplary riparian protection and restoration through an annual awards program, and demonstrates stream channel processes with a traveling trailer exhibit. BLM has been actively involved with CRA since its formation in 1988.

Colorado Riparian Training Cadre. The Colorado Riparian Training Cadre is an interagency (BLM, USFS, NRCS) team, which provides training sessions on how to assess riparian/wetland conditions. These sessions are targeted to private landowners, state/federal/county employees, and other interested individuals in Colorado with a primary objective of developing a common vocabulary and understanding of riparian areas among people who work on the land. In addition to the training sessions, cadre members also offer technical assistance to private landowners and watershed groups on riparian and stream enhancement projects. There are similar training cadres in the other western states, all operating under the guidance of the National Riparian Service Team, based in Prineville, Oregon.

Colorado Rare Plant Technical Committee. This informal group, initiated in 1992, is comprised of the BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, State of Colorado Natural Areas Program, and Colorado State University's Natural Heritage Program. Representatives of these Federal and State agencies meet with private individuals and

organizations interested in managing rare plant species in Colorado. The group meets several times a year to share information about agency priorities, monitoring results, and other pertinent information about rare plants in Colorado. In 1997, the committee published the *Colorado Rare Plant Field Guide*.

Colorado State Historic Preservation Office. Partnership established in 1998 to develop and maintain an automated cultural resources inventory for private, State, county, and federal lands. BLM assists the State with automating their cultural resource database as well as obtaining Geographic Information System mapping capability. The long-term goal is to have all cultural resource data from BLM lands accessible in GIS for use in the State cultural resource database for compliance work and scientific research.

Colorado/Utah Black-footed Ferret Recovery Plan. Eleven-year partnership to reintroduce the rarest and most endangered mammal in North America, the black-footed ferret, in northwestern Colorado and northeastern Utah. The goal of the 1988 National Fish and Wildlife Black-footed Ferret Recovery Plan establishes about 1,500 black-footed ferrets in 10 separate, self-sustaining colonies by 2010. Partners include Colorado Division of Wildlife; Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, CO; Little Snake Motorcycle Club; Utah State University; Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; USGS-Biological Resources Division; Animal Plant Health Inspection Services; and BLM in Colorado and Utah.

Colorado Wild Horse Inmate Program. The program began in 1986 as a means of finding homes for older, less adoptable horses. Partnership brings together a surplus of unadopted wild horses and potential work force of men and women (prison inmates) who conduct halter and saddle training of the wild horses. The inmates also provide daily care for over 600 wild horses and burros that rest in Canon City before continuing their journey to adoptions in the east. For the last nine years, the program has been self-supporting. More than 5,000 horses have been through the training program since its inception. Partnership has resulted in increase of number of wild horses being adopted by the public. The partnership operates through an Assistance (cooperative) Agreement between the BLM and the Colorado Department of Corrections.

Consortium for Heritage Stewardship. This information sharing group meets quarterly and has completed projects such as sponsorship of Project Archaeology workshops and leadership in the development of a stewardship program for heritage tourism in southwestern Colorado. Partners include: Indian Tribes (Ute Mountain Ute, Hope Tribe, the Navajo Nation), Fort Lewis College, museums (Anasazi Heritage Center, Mesa Verde Museum, Salmon Ruins Museum, Center for Southwest Studies); Cortez Economic Development Council; Crow Canyon Archaeological Center; Anasazi Archaeological Institute; Four Corners Heritage Council; and the Southwest Colorado Project Archaeology (local and regional teachers).

Cooperative Weed Management. This cooperative weed management and education effort involving agencies and landowners in Moffat County, is being conducted with the assistance of the Colorado State University (CSU) Range Science Department and the CSU Cooperative Extension Service. Moffat County Pest Management in cooperation with BLM, Colorado State

Land Board, Colorado Division of Wildlife Habitat Partnership Program, Routt County, Dinosaur National Monument, Brown's Park National Wildlife Refuge, ColoWyo Coal, Texaco, and over 41 permittees, is involved in nine cooperative weed management plans. Seven of the management plans are involved strictly with weed inventory, control, and monitoring efforts. Two of the partnerships are solely directed in education/awareness and prevention/detection programs.

Craig Interagency Dispatch Center. The mission of the Center is to provide safe, cost effective and timely support to wildfire suppression operations and other fire management operations within the Craig/Routt Fire Management Unit in northwest Colorado. The federal, state and county entities who support this center have either cooperative or mutual aid agreements which are signed annually in the Annual Operating Plan. The plan defines: each agencies' contribution to the Center in the way of staffing, equipment, money, etc.; initial attack responsibilities; and dispatch procedures. The cooperators are: the Bureau of Land Management, Northwest Center; U.S. Forest Service, Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest; National Park Service, Dinosaur National Monument; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Browns Park and Arapahoe National Wildlife Refuges; Colorado State Forest Service; and Moffat County Sheriff.

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. Crow Canyon conducts educational programs in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and at facilities north of Cortez. Every fourth grader in Montezuma County attends a day-long program at the Sand Canyon trailhead and Castle Rock Pueblo. Other programs are conducted at Sand Canyon Pueblo and Woods Canyon Pueblo. Each program emphasizes the culture and prehistory of the Four Corners region and the importance of cultural resources to our national heritage. Crow Canyon also conducts monitoring studies at Canyons of the Ancients sites. In addition, the Anasazi Heritage Center uses Crow Canyons' Native American Advisory Group for consultation and review of AHC interpretation and education products.

D

Dinosaur Diamond, Inc. A partnership, which includes BLM, Park Service, Forest Service, state agencies, counties, and towns in Colorado and Utah, that is devoted to interpretation and preservation of fossil and archaeological resources in northwestern Colorado and northeastern Utah. The partnership has a management plan for over 500 miles of highways, including the Dinosaur Diamond Scenic Highway in Colorado and the Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway in Utah. The partnership works with the state transportation departments to develop interpretive locations on the highways as well as local museums and visitor facilities to enhance visitor education, enjoyment, and safety.

F

Federal Leadership Forum. The Federal Leadership Forum (FLF) convened in October of 1998 to address issues associated with the analysis of natural gas development and the affects of that development on other resources. The Forum comprises regional senior managers from the Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Forest Service, Environmental Protection Agency, U. S. Fish

and Wildlife service, and the National Park Service, with the Department of Energy acting in an advisory role. The FLF plays a primary role in addressing significant oil and gas resource management issues affecting member agencies, particularly issues associated with the NEPA process. The primary goal of the FLF is to establish a quality, predictable, consistent NEPA process for oil and gas development.

Four Corners Heritage Council. This long-standing partnership between the BLM and the Governors of the four corners states focuses on four major heritage issues; education, stewardship, tourism and trails. The Council has a strong dedication to building relationships and communication with Native American communities of interest in tourism development. The direct benefits to BLM have been increased on-the-ground presence, enhanced public appreciation for heritage resources, and stronger relationships with Native American governments and our local communities. ✓

Friends of Canyon Pintado. Organized in 1999, Friends of Canyon Pintado are volunteers from the towns of Rangely, Meeker, and other areas in Rio Blanco county in association with BLM and the Rangely Museum Society. Volunteers provide routine maintenance on BLM constructed trails, picnic areas, and interpretive sites within Canyon Pintado. Individual volunteers also guide rock art tours, greet visitors, and donate time, labor, supplies and equipment for maintaining visitor facilities.

G

Garden Park Paleontology Society (GPPS). This partnership between BLM, the Denver Museum of Natural History Department of Earth Sciences, and a group of local citizens was founded in 1988 to promote natural science and environmental education programs for all ages, with special emphasis on paleontology and the Garden Park Fossil Area near Canon City. In March of 1995, GPPS moved into the Dinosaur Depot, where they provide interpretive and educational programs for the public and are currently preparing an internationally significant Stegosaurus skeleton.

Geographic Coordinate Data Base in Delta County, Colorado. Following the Western Governors Association's recommendation to create a common Public Land Survey System between agencies and levels of government, Delta County is collecting additional information to improve BLM's Geographic Coordinate Data Base (GCDB) and the county Geographic Information System. Delta County has provided matching dollars and work months to do field work, office research, and integration of new data into GCDB. The BLM is developing a web site for easy entry of new control points by surveyors in Delta and from across the state. The BLM will readjust the GCDB after new information is collected. It has been proposed that this project and web site be used as a standard other counties and states could follow.

Gold Belt Tour National Back Country Byway. Collaborative partnership whose activities resulted in the 131-mile Gold Belt Tour being designated as a National Back Country Byway and Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway in 1989, and a National Scenic Byway in 2000. The Byway is managed through a cooperative effort between the BLM, the National Park Service, the

Colorado Department of Transportation (operating through the Governor's Scenic & Historic Byways Commission), the Counties of Teller and Fremont, and the communities of Victor, Cripple Creek, Florissant, Canon City and Florence. In 1999, the Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway Association, a not-for-profit organization, was formed to assume a leadership role in implementing the Corridor Management Plan and sustaining byway-related partnerships. Ongoing direction and policy for the maintenance of the byway, including interpretive activities, is provided by the partners.

Grand Junction Dispatch Center. The Grand Junction Air Center provides tactical aircraft resources (airtankers, smokejumpers, lead planes, and air attack) for initial attack and large incident support in western Colorado and eastern Utah, as well as supporting national requests for resources. The Grand Junction Interagency Dispatch Center provides incident support to the following interagency partners: Upper Colorado River Fire Management Unit, BLM's Grand Junction Field Office, White River National Forest, portions of the Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre, and Gunnison National Forests, Colorado National Monument, and Colorado State Forest Service.

Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA). GARNA assists in supporting the educational, interpretive and volunteer programs of the BLM, Colorado State Parks, Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands, Colorado State Parks, Colorado Division of Wildlife in the Arkansas Valley region. Friends of Fourmile, a citizens group has organized as a chapter associated with GARNA specifically to help with the planning, implementation and monitoring of the Fourmile Travel Management area.

Gunnison County Pioneer and Historical Society. BLM partners with this non-profit organization in order to preserve historic resources in the Gunnison Basin. Projects have been funded through grants from the Colorado State Historic Fund and the BLM. The biggest success of this partnership thus far has been the restoration and interpretation of Spencer School, a turn-of-the-century school house located in the ghost town of Spencer on public land between Lake City and Gunnison.

Gunnison Sage Grouse. To restore the environment associated with the Gunnison Sage Grouse, currently listed as a candidate species, in the Gunnison Basin to prevent the species from being listed as endangered. Includes the BLM, Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, private landowners, and conservation organizations cooperating through a conservation agreement.

H

Habitat Partnership Program. Partnership which addresses big game conflicts with forage and fencing which arise between private, state, and federal landowners and ensures private land issues and habitat management are considered in big game management decisions. Includes the BLM, Forest Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, private landowners, and sportsmen groups operating through the 16 local committees on the western slope.

Hinsdale County Historical Society. BLM partners with this nonprofit organization in order to coordinate management of historic structures along the Alpine Loop Backcountry Byway in southwestern Colorado. Projects have been funded through grants from the Colorado State Historic Fund, Save America's Treasures and BLM. These projects have helped preserve historic sites for future generations, provided for safe visits, and developed interpretive materials.

Inspections of Oil and Gas Properties. An agreement between the BLM and the COGCC allows the two agencies to share staff to accomplish inspections of oil and gas properties. In practice, COGCC performs some inspections for BLM in eastern Colorado where BLM has few staff, while BLM performs some inspections for COGCC on the western slope where they need assistance. There is another MOU with COGCC that allows BLM to place federal wells on the State's Emergency Response Fund priority list for plugging and abandonment operations. This agreement minimizes the number of unplugged or improperly plugged wells in Colorado.

Kelly Place Partnership. BLM has worked with Kelly Place the last decade to stabilize and treat significant adobe ruins throughout the Sand Canyon Cultural Resource Emphasis Area, now within the boundaries of the Canyon of the Ancients National Monument. The projects enlist the support of Elderhostel volunteers and citizens throughout Colorado. These efforts have preserved numerous "at risk" archaeological sites and enhanced the educational values of visitors to the Monument.

Kremmling Cretaceous Ammonite Research Program. Partnership between the BLM, the Denver Museum of Natural History, the Scripps Institute, the University of Colorado Museum, and Southern Florida University to study the unique paleoenvironmental conditions and paleontological resources in this nationally significant paleontological area. Programs are provided annually for the Grand County Historical Association, avocational volunteers from the Denver Museum and local Girl/Boy Scouts.

Lake Fork Watershed Working Group. The Lake Fork Watershed Working Group is a community led group organized to address environmental concerns associated with the watershed. Lake Fork is eight miles long starting at the outflow of Turquoise Lake and ending with its confluence with the Arkansas River downstream from Leadville. The watershed is polluted with drainage from abandoned mines and leachates from mine wastes. The watershed is made up of private, state, and federal lands. The group includes private landowners, citizen associations, mining companies, local, state, and federal agencies, and the Natural Resource Management Institute of the Colorado Mountain College who coordinate the group.

Law Enforcement on Public Lands. BLM has agreements with Colorado County Sheriffs and the Colorado National Guard to locate and eradicate illegal drugs on public lands. The County Sheriffs and BLM also provide mutual law enforcement assistance, as needed.

Los Caminos Antiguos Scenic and Historic Byway Partnership. This partnership, established in 1991, has developed a management plan to promote and protect the cultural heritage of the San Luis Valley along the 129-mile byway in southcentral Colorado. The byway passes through the oldest settlements in Colorado. The partnership is currently seeking NPS National Heritage Designation status. Partners include: Federal (BLM, USFS, NPS); state (CDOW); county commissioners, tourism boards, and chambers of commerce from the three affected counties [Conejos, Costilla, and Alamosa]; local governments; Fort Garland Museum; San Luis Museum and Cultural Center; Fort Garland Revitalization Committee; The Nature Conservancy; Friends of the Grand Sand Dunes, and private citizens.

M

McElmo Canyon Research Institute (MCRI). MCRI conducts Elderhostel service programs in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. Projects include stabilization of heavily visited sites in Sand Canyon and trail demarcation to route visitors away from sensitive middens and cultural features.

Middle Park PaleoIndian Program. Partnership between the BLM, the University of Wyoming and the Colorado School of Mines to study the earliest human use and occupation of the Rocky Mountains using innovative geophysical techniques. For the last 10 years, the university has conducted field schools for the training of archeology students and enlisted the support of local volunteers to assist in scientific research. As part of this partnership, local private landowners have enthusiastically assisted and supported the identification, study and protection of archaeological sites on their lands.

Moffat County Visitor Center. The Craig Chamber of Commerce, Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Routt/Medicine Bow National Forest, Dinosaur National Monument, Moffat County Lodging Tax Panel, and the BLM cooperatively support this center to provide a convenient place for visitors to obtain information about the various recreation and tourism opportunities in the northwest Colorado.

Montrose Interagency Dispatch Center. This Center provides fire support for BLM's Gunnison and Uncompahgre Field Offices, the Gunnison and Uncompahgre National Forests, and portions of Grand Mesa National Forest. Area of responsibility includes all BLM administered public lands and National Forests in Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel counties.

Museum of Western Colorado Curation Partnership. This partnership provides for the long-term care and treatment of archaeological and paleontological collections and associated records from BLM land in northwest Colorado. The museum assures that the collections are suitably

housed and treated for scientific study and public education. The materials are used for public interpretation through museum display. The BLM benefits by having a suitable regional repository for storing and interpreting museum property from public land.

N

Natural and Cultural Resources Consortium (NCRC) for the Colorado State Fair. The NCRC is a collaboration of agencies and organizations comprised of the state's premiere natural and cultural resource educators, managers, and researchers. These organizations partner to design and construct interactive, interpretive, and family-oriented exhibits in the 11,900 sq. ft. Natural and Cultural Resources Building at the Colorado State Fair. Each year, the Building is filled with murals, exhibits, scientific instruments, hands-on-activities, and numerous presentations. This year, approximately 1,600 elementary students from local schools also toured the exhibit and participated in the educational activities. Current partners include: Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado State Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Colorado State Fair, Colorado Springs Utilities, U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Chapter of Soil and Water Conservation Society, Pueblo Board of Water Works, Frontier Pathways Scenic Byway, U.S. Geological Survey, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Service, El Pueblo Museum, Colorado State Parks, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Colorado Water Conservation Board and the American Water Works Association.

Northwest Colorado Riparian Task Force. Partnership organized in 1989 to promote conservation and restoration of wetland and riparian areas in northwest Colorado. Works cooperatively with state and federal agencies, public organizations, and private landowners to enhance riparian-wetland systems and watershed management.

Northwest Colorado Sage Grouse Working Group. This group consists of several dozen agencies, groups and individuals working to develop and implement a conservation plan in order to protect sage grouse and their habitat in northwest Colorado. Their goal is to preclude the necessity of listing sage grouse as a threatened and endangered species.

O

Oil and Gas Conservation Program. The 3M project is a collaborative project between the BLM, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe to undertake an aggressive comprehensive study of the Fruitland Coal Formation in the Colorado portion of the San Juan Basin. The 3M's refer to the main components of the study, geologic mapping, groundwater and outcrop monitoring, and reservoir modeling. The purpose is to monitor current environmental impacts related to groundwater and coal outcrop gassing, develop predictive models of where future impacts will occur, and identify potential mitigative measures.

Owl Mountain. Partnership created in 1993 to serve the economic, cultural and social needs of

residents in Jackson County, Colorado, and portions of Carbon County, Wyoming, while developing long-term landscape management practices that assist in land health issues. Representatives on Steering Committee include Colorado State Lands, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado State Forests, BLM, Colorado's Habitat Partnership Program, Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, private landowners and the environmental community.

P

Public Lands Interpretive Association (PLIA). PLIA manages the Anasazi Heritage Center museum shop, enhancing opportunities for visitors to learn about Four Corners culture and history. PLIA also assists with grant applications and administration; special projects in Canyons of the Ancients, brochure design, curricula development, exhibit receptions, and other interpretive projects.

R

Reclamation and Surface Management. The BLM and the Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology (DMG) have prepared a surface management MOU to provide for more efficient mine permitting and inspection procedures. The DMG holds one reclamation bond as part of the MOU.

Red Hill Council. Public lands in the Red Hill area near Glenwood Springs provide an important "close to town" recreation area for local residents of the Roaring Fork valley. Demand to preserve Red Hill's unique recreational and aesthetic values, as well as address the associated impacts of the recreational use, have accelerated as the region prospers and grows. With this in mind, a group of concerned users and neighbors formed the Red Hill Council. The collaborating partners included interested citizens, local businesses, adjacent landowners, the town of Carbondale, Garfield County, Aspen Glen development, Western Slope Consulting and the BLM. The partnership set out to develop recommendations that would protect public lands managed by the BLM and minimize conflicts while continuing to provide for recreational use.

Rio Blanco County Weed Partnership. In 1997, the Bureau of Land Management initiated a cooperative effort involving BLM, Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, White River Soil Conservation District, local businesses and individuals. The purpose of this partnership is to address noxious weed management within Rio Blanco county in northwestern Colorado. Noxious weed management is being pursued through three functions: education, inventory, and control. The partnership is active in noxious weed education by sponsoring brochures and calendars, booths, field trips and large scale control efforts. The partnership acts as a clearing house for documenting noxious weed locations and treatment efforts. It provides information, loans spray equipment and provides funding to defray expenses for private landowners. The partnership is involved with the Curtis Creek project which is using biological control, leafy spurge flea beetles, angora goats, along with chemical control to determine the best management practices for leafy spurge control.

Rural fire Assistance. A partnership between Colorado BLM and the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) was developed to transfer funds, designated through the Rural Fire Assistance program, to local Colorado fire districts. In 2001, \$550,000 was transferred to the CSFS and distributed to 102 local fire districts in 38 counties, after they developed and provided a plan that described how the money would be utilized. A maximum of \$20,000 was allocated to any one fire district. BLM worked directly with CSFS to validate plans as well as provide technical expertise where needed to accomplish the fire district's plan. An additional \$60,000 will be distributed by CSFS by 2002. By allocating the BLM monies through CSFS, it allowed CSFS to distribute their funds to more fire districts in eastern Colorado thus helping all rural fire districts within the State of Colorado.

S

San Juan Skyway. The San Juan Skyway was the first of 21 Scenic and Historic Byways in Colorado. Coordination is ongoing with communities along the Skyway to improve the area's natural resources, preserve, document, and interpret its history, and enhance recreational opportunities. Partners include Colorado Department of Transportation, Fort Lewis College, Forest Service, San Miguel and Ouray counties, cities of Ridgway, Telluride, and Ouray.

San Luis Valley Archaeological Network. This partnership with local avocational organizations and county historical societies focuses on the protection and preservation of the cultural heritage in the Valley. Members of the network assist BLM cultural specialists with recording cultural sites, monitoring and preserving rock art, and providing educational opportunities for local students to participate in archaeological activities.

San Luis Valley Focus Area Committee. Established in 1990, the San Luis Valley Focus Area Committee is a partnership that coordinates wetlands protection and restoration activities in the valley. The San Luis Valley is the largest inter-mountain valley in the Western U.S. The valley, a rich and diverse wetlands of international importance to migratory birds and other wetlands wildlife, is among the most productive breeding habitats in North America for several duck and colonial wading bird species. In 1998, they were awarded a North American Wetlands Conservation Association (NAWCA) grant for \$1,000,000. In September 2000, the San Luis Valley Community Wetlands Strategy was prepared by this committee in cooperation with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. Partners include: Ducks Unlimited; Colorado Division of Wildlife; The Nature Conservancy; American Farmland Trust; Rio Grande Headwaters Trust; Rio Grande Water Conservation District; Colorado Cattlemen's Association; San Luis Valley Cattlemen's Association; Rio Grande Soil Conservation District; Alamosa County Commissioners; Alamosa River Project; Audubon Society; National Wild Turkey Federation; private landowners; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Colorado BLM; National Park Service; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Bureau of Reclamation.

San Miguel Living Classrooms Project. Four areas in the San Miguel watershed (two are on public land) are designated living classrooms. These outdoor classrooms provide the area's students with educational opportunities geared to science and natural resources. The project

emphasizes the watershed's unique biological resources and encourages hands on learning. Students learn about wildlife and riparian habitat and conduct basic monitoring at sites along the San Miguel River over the school year. Partners include: The Telluride Institute, Telluride School District, West End School District, San Miguel Watershed Coalition, Norwood School District, and BLM.

San Miguel Watershed Partnership. A forum of private, local, state, and federal entities working to leverage resources to improve the San Miguel Watershed resources--riparian communities, water flow and quality, wildlife habitat, protection of scenic, cultural, and historical values, and enhancement of recreational opportunities. A final watershed management plan was published in 1997.

Save America's Treasures. Save America's Treasures is a national White House initiative co-sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This program is supporting a three-year Anasazi Heritage Center project to retrieve and preserve collections from public lands currently stored in facilities with poor security, climate control, and access. Many of these collections are still in original packing materials that can damage collections. Ten threatened collections have been retrieved and backlog AHC collections have been repackaged. Data on all collections is being entered into the AHC's collections data management system.

Service First. BLM Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service, developed a joint strategy to help meet the management demands of the public lands and forests and better serve the public. The agencies have worked collaboratively to effectively manage an intertwined and interdependent land and resource base. Neither BLM nor the Forest Service possess an entire compliment of needed skills or resources locally, but together the agencies jointly meet the demands of the public and leverage budget capabilities. This ongoing "one-stop-shopping" approach combines the best of each agency and capitalizes on re-engineering public lands management that makes good business sense. Agency offices throughout Colorado are collocating; sharing scarce skills (e.g., archaeologist, geologists, range conservationists, volunteer coordinators), equipment, vehicles, and supplies; offering single permits for firewood and Christmas tree cutting; recreation and grazing permits; and consolidating into six regional fire dispatch centers. The following field offices have a BLM/Forest Service manager: San Juan Public Lands Center, Durango; Saguache; and LaJara.

Southwest Colorado Cultural Site Stewardship Program (CSSP). The Southwest Colorado Cultural Site Stewardship Program is a regional organization of volunteers supported by local communities, businesses, and the tribal and public land management agencies in the southwest corner of Colorado. The mission of CSSP is to: (1) assist in halting damage by vandals to cultural resources; and (2) significantly reduce damage done by visitation by educating the public how to respect and protect all cultural resources.

T

Teaching Environmental Science Naturally (T.E.N.). This partnership focuses on providing training and resource materials to K through 12 teachers using nationally recognized curricula

(Project Learning Tree, Project WILD and Project WET) and outdoor classrooms on public lands. Several teacher training courses are offered each summer across the state. These courses meet Colorado Department of Education requirements and are also offered for graduate credit. Colorado Division of Wildlife, BLM, Forest Service, Colorado State Parks, Colorado State Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pueblo Zoo, and numerous school districts cooperate in this program.

Trail of the Ancients Byway. Along this 114-mile route in southwestern Colorado are Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings and rock drawings. The byway travels through Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Hovenweep National Monument, and Mesa Verde National Park, which all contain dense clusters of Ancestral Puebloan sites. BLM's Anasazi Heritage Center located outside of Dolores, is the headquarters for the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument and offers extensive background and interpretive information. One branch of the byway leads to the Four Corners Area, connecting to Utah's Trail of the Ancients byway.

U

Uncompahgre Project (UP). Their mission is to prioritize, prepare, implement, fund, monitor, and evaluate landscape goals and objectives contained within a 5-year vegetative management project. The UP consists of approximately 1.5 million acres. Goals of this partnership include: (1) encourage healthy land use practices by private landowners on the UP to improve landscape function and health, and (2) increase awareness of the general public regarding the value and benefits of landscape management. Partners include: Colorado Division of Wildlife; Public Land Partnership in Montrose, Delta, Ouray, San Miguel, and Mesa Counties; Colorado Habitat Partnership Program; Mule Deer Foundation; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; BLM; U.S. Forest Service; and private landowners.

Uncompahgre Riverway Trail Organization. This is an on-going collaboration with local partners to develop a trail system from Montrose to Ridgeway. The Uncompahgre Riverway Organization coordinates the overall project. Partners include: Colorado Department of Transportation; Town of Ridgeway; Ouray County; Ridgeway State Park, Colorado Division of Wildlife; private citizens, and BLM.

Upper Arkansas Regional Weed Management Cooperative. The group works cooperatively to do noxious weed mapping, weed treatment, weed education/awareness, and grant applications across jurisdictional and ownership boundaries. This group includes the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, State Land Board, and eight county governments.

W

Water Quality Partnership. BLM has a very successful partnership with the Colorado Water Quality Division for the control of nonpoint source pollution. This progressive federal-state relationship for water quality was initiated through a MOU in 1991.

Western State College. BLM partners with Western State College in order to provide hands-on research opportunities for volunteers, educators, and students, including archaeological internships for Ute High School students. Current efforts have focused on the archaeological excavations at the Chance Gulch Paleoindian Site. After three seasons of field work, this site has provided important information on the earliest inhabitants in the Gunnison Basin.

Wonderful Outdoor World. A partnership program designed to introduce urban youth, ages 8-10, to the wonders of outdoor recreation and environmental education. The partnerships include local, state and federal agencies as well as private direct service providers, Denver Parks and Recreation, Denver Kids, Inc., Colorado Division of Natural Resources-YNR; African American Leadership Institute; Concerned Citizens About Minorities in Aurora; AmeriCorps - Commerce City, Lafayette; I Have a Dream Foundation, Boulder; Denver Housing Authority Youth Programs; EarthForce; Forest Service; Denver Zoo; Denver Urban Gardens; and Colorado State Parks.

Y

Yampa River System Project. Partnership created to: (1) conserve Yampa River System and surrounding lands using voluntary acquisition, easements, and other techniques; (2) explore and develop techniques to integrate and manage public recreation facilities; and (3) improve coordination of recreation in the river system. Includes local governments, federal and state land management agencies (including State Parks, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and BLM), and private sector tourism and business interests collaborating around the core concept of a greenway trail from Steamboat Springs downstream through Craig to the Dinosaur National Monument on the Colorado-Utah state line.